



July 22, 2014

KANSAS BULLETIN NO. KS300-14-51

SUBJECT: LTP–Environmental Quality Incentives Program 2014 Application Fund Code Change for Water Quantity Applications

Action required by: August 4, 2014 (Field Offices [FOs])
August 15, 2014

Action required by: August 22, 2014 (Area Offices [AOs])
September 5, 2014

Action required by: August 6, 2014 (State Office [SO])

Purpose: Provide guidance for water quantity (WQ) application fund code change to the Ogallala Aquifer Initiative (OAI) fund code

Expiration Date: September 30, 2015

Background

Initial funding decisions have been completed for the OAI fund code. Funds remain in this fund code however; current eligible applications have been exhausted. Significant numbers of eligible general Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) WQ applications remain unfunded. These applications address the same resource concerns identified for the OAI. A fund code change for certain WQ applications is authorized.

Criteria for Allowing Fund Code Change

Only eligible status WQ applications that were received by the EQIP General application cutoff date of November 15, 2013, and qualify as “High” Priority OAI applications are authorized for fund code change (attached).

It shall be documented in Form NRCS-CPA-6, Conservation Assistance Notes (CPA-6 Notes), the producer requested the application be moved from EQIP General–WQ to the OAI fund code.

Once an application has been moved to the OAI fund code it may not be moved back to a fund code that has passed the initial deadline for funding decisions.

(more)

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ProTracts Ranking Tool

Applications converted to the OAI will need to be re-ranked in ProTracts. Follow guidance found in Bulletin KS300-14-24.

Deadlines

Although applications for EQIP are accepted continuously there will be no additional application evaluation period cutoff date for OAI funds.

- FOs will complete application rankings by **August 4, 2014**.

Note: Conservation planning should already be completed for the application and minimal changes needed due to moving from EQIP-WQ to OAI.

- AOs will ensure that conservation plans, application ranking, and reviews of ranking have been completed prior to funding decisions.
- The SO will make funding decisions by **August 6, 2014**.
- All approved applications and documentation will be entered in electronic contracts (eContracts) by **August 15, 2014**.
- Per Bulletin KS300-14-41, applications of \$150,000 or greater shall have worksheets submitted two weeks prior to the deadline for obligation or **August 22, 2014**.
- Assistant state conservationists for field operations (ASTCs-FO) will ensure that all contracts have been obligated in Program Contracts System (ProTracts) by **September 5, 2014**.

The regional conservationist shall review and obligate all approved applications of \$150,000 or greater as outlined in Bulletin KS300-14-41.

Contact: Forward questions through established channels to Chad G. Volkman, Resource Conservationist, at chad.volkman@ks.usda.gov or (785) 823-4580.

(Signed)

ERIC B. BANKS
State Conservationist

Attachment